

# Undisciplined

Christina Nadler

cultural studies should be a political act against the institutionalizing processes of becoming disciplined

disciplining disciplines are what have produced the need for cultural studies

as a response to the limiting of disciplines and their necessary exclusions, cultural studies emerges to respond, undisciplined, to the problems of what has been left out

cultural studies must remain undisciplined, or it ironically reproduces the circumstances that led to its creation and produces its own redundancy

ways to remain undisciplined are to

resist canonization and to

resist asserting certain methods as our own

we must be flexible

we must also practice our theories, not just apply them through methods

understanding both cultural theory and cultural method as a practice makes them necessarily unable to be disciplined

because practice is never fixed or final

to facilitate this undisciplined becoming of cultural studies we can understand it, and practice it as a

field

not a discipline, but a field above and below and unbounded by the disciplining of disciplines

cultural studies

could become a field

is a field

was always already a field

this field is like a plane of immanence

smooth unstructured space

as deleuze and guattari\* describe the field of immanence,

“

there are only

complex networks of forces,

particles,

connections,

relations,

affects and

becomings...

there are only

relations of

movement and rest,

speed and slowness

between unformed elements....

there are only

haecceities,

affects,

subjectless individuations that  
constitute collective assemblages

”

of course, this is not how everyone understands cultural studies

cultural studies

could become disciplined

is disciplined

was always already disciplined

but i see the undisciplined potential in cultural studies like a body without organs

in understanding cultural studies like a body without organs we see that we are productive

that our measures are productive

that we are in a quantum entanglement with culture

and like desire we produce it

we are not removed from it, lacking it, and looking in on it.

as foucault\* has said the intellectual's role is not to report on the truth of the masses but

it “is to struggle against the forms of power that transform us into its object and  
instrument in the sphere of "knowledge," "truth," "consciousness," and "discourse””

we must resist the forms of power that seek to discipline cultural studies

and that includes us as we will be the ones to do this especially when

we privilege certain requirements for

publications,

funding, and

tenure,

and indeed the academy itself.

if we do resist the putting up of fences we will have the space to

work and play

desire and produce

theorize and practice

on and of

this immanent field of cultural studies

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\*a thousand plateaus

\*intellectuals and power